



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1430  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
[www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov)

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/009,369	06/06/2002	James H. Crowell	CJL 301A2	2183

7590                    06/17/2003

Kolisch Hartwell Dickinson  
McCormack & Heuser  
200 Pacific Building  
520 SW Yamhill Street  
Portland, OR 97204

[REDACTED] EXAMINER

SAFAVI, MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3673	6

DATE MAILED: 06/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/009,369

Applicant(s)

CROWELL, JAMES H.

Examiner

M. Safavi

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM  
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 June 2002.

2a) This action is FINAL.                  2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

4) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some \* c) None of:  
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_.  
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_.                  6) Other:

Art Unit: 3673

***Drawings***

The instant application appears to contain drawing sheets with sheet numbering of 1-152. It is not clear as to what the drawing sheets 1-152, or figures presented on the drawing sheets 1-152, represent. There appears no description, brief or specific, of any of the figures on drawing sheet 1-152. And the figures themselves do not appear to contain Drawing Figure designations nor do they appear to contain reference characters depicting any elements of the invention. Clarification is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The language of claims 1-26, and particularly independent claims 1-4, fails to clearly set forth the elements which go to make up the inventive concept of the instant application. Further, no clear and complete relationship is ever set forth with respect to any and all elements which may be recited. There appears only language directed to desired effect or intended utilization or presumed consequence of any general aspects that are recited. There is no clear structure or article of manufacture set forth in the language of claims 1-26.

Art Unit: 3673

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in-
  - (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
  - (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

3. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Boozer.

Boozer discloses, for example at Figs. 3, 2A, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 15, a modular building system having interconnected structures operatively associated with, and interconnecting, respective building components, operable with the application of external load, and in direct response to the specific and instantaneous characteristics of such a load, to create a related, specific, load bearing path through the building between the point of the load application and the ground. Boozer, as well, discloses building components organized to form an overall building, at least some of which components are intended to carry loads that are related to different externally applied

Art Unit: 3673

loads, and interconnect structures operatively interconnecting said components, and capable of defining variably, and for different specific externally applied loads, which ones of said components will form parts in a reaction, load-bearing path between the point of external load application and the ground, with the interconnected structures thus effectively holding to a minimum the overall time that certain ones of said components and interconnect structure operate as parts of such reaction path. Relative-motion-accommodating interconnect structures operating adaptively, selectively and dynamically with respect to external applied loads, and via the relative-motion accommodation accorded to selected interconnected building components and interconnect structures, to create different, responsive load-bearing paths through the building matrix between the point of such external load application and the ground are disclosed, as well. The elements of Boozer could be associated in any varying manner to create any varying design including connections affording relative motion which may be a direct result of temperature, pressure, load, etc.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bergeron et al. Bergeron et al. discloses, including Figs. 2 and 3, a modular building system having interconnected structures operatively associated with, and interconnecting, respective building components, operable with the application of external load, and in direct response to the specific and instantaneous characteristics of such a load, to create a related, specific, load bearing path through the building between the point of the load application and the ground. Boozer, as well,

Art Unit: 3673

discloses building components organized to form an overall building, at least some of which components are intended to carry loads that are related to different externally applied loads, and interconnect structures operatively interconnecting said components, and capable of defining variably, and for different specific externally applied loads, which ones of said components will form parts in a reaction, load-bearing path between the point of external load application and the ground, with the interconnected structures thus effectively holding to a minimum the overall time that certain ones of said components and interconnect structure operate as parts of such reaction path. Relative-motion-accommodating interconnect structures operating adaptively, selectively and dynamically with respect to external applied loads, and via the relative-motion accommodation accorded to selected interconnected building components and interconnect structures, to create different, responsive load-bearing paths through the building matrix between the point of such external load application and the ground are disclosed, as well. The elements of Bergeron et al. could be associated in any varying manner to create any varying design including connections affording relative motion which may be a direct result of temperature, pressure, load, etc.

5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Palumbo. Palumbo discloses, including Figs. 1 and 2, a modular building system having interconnected structures operatively associated with, and interconnecting, respective building components, operable with the application of external load, and in direct response to the specific and

Art Unit: 3673

instantaneous characteristics of such a load, to create a related, specific, load bearing path through the building between the point of the load application and the ground. Boozer, as well, discloses building components organized to form an overall building, at least some of which components are intended to carry loads that are related to different externally applied loads, and interconnect structures operatively interconnecting said components, and capable of defining variably, and for different specific externally applied loads, which ones of said components will form parts in a reaction, load-bearing path between the point of external load application and the ground, with the interconnected structures thus effectively holding to a minimum the overall time that certain ones of said components and interconnect structure operate as parts of such reaction path. Relative-motion-accommodating interconnect structures operating adaptively, selectively and dynamically with respect to external applied loads, and via the relative-motion accommodation accorded to selected interconnected building components and interconnect structures, to create different, responsive load-bearing paths through the building matrix between the point of such external load application and the ground are disclosed, as well. The elements of Palumbo could be associated in any varying manner to create any varying design including connections affording relative motion which may be a direct result of temperature, pressure, load, etc.

6. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ting.

Art Unit: 3673

Ting discloses, for example at Figs. 1-26, a modular building system having interconnected structures operatively associated with, and interconnecting, respective building components, operable with the application of external load, and in direct response to the specific and instantaneous characteristics of such a load, to create a related, specific, load bearing path through the building between the point of the load application and the ground. Boozer, as well, discloses building components organized to form an overall building, at least some of which components are intended to carry loads that are related to different externally applied loads, and interconnect structures operatively interconnecting said components, and capable of defining variably, and for different specific externally applied loads, which ones of said components will form parts in a reaction, load-bearing path between the point of external load application and the ground, with the interconnected structures thus effectively holding to a minimum the overall time that certain ones of said components and interconnect structure operate as parts of such reaction path. Relative-motion-accommodating interconnect structures operating adaptively, selectively and dynamically with respect to external applied loads, and via the relative-motion accommodation accorded to selected interconnected building components and interconnect structures, to create different, responsive load-bearing paths through the building matrix between the point of such external load application and the ground are disclosed, as well. The elements of Ting could be associated in any varying manner to create any varying design including connections affording relative motion which may be a direct result of temperature, pressure, load, etc.

Art Unit: 3673

7. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fiehler. Fiehler discloses, including Figs. 1-5, a modular building system having interconnected structures operatively associated with, and interconnecting, respective building components, operable with the application of external load, and in direct response to the specific and instantaneous characteristics of such a load, to create a related, specific, load bearing path through the building between the point of the load application and the ground. Boozer, as well, discloses building components organized to form an overall building, at least some of which components are intended to carry loads that are related to different externally applied loads. and interconnect structures operatively interconnecting said components, and capable of defining variably, and for different specific externally applied loads, which ones of said components will form parts in a reaction, load-bearing path between the point of external load application and the ground, with the interconnected structures thus effectively holding to a minimum the overall time that certain ones of said components and interconnect structure operate as parts of such reaction path. Relative-motion-accommodating interconnect structures operating adaptively, selectively and dynamically with respect to external applied loads, and via the relative-motion accommodation accorded to selected interconnected building components and interconnect structures, to create different, responsive load-bearing paths through the building matrix between the point of such external load application and the ground are disclosed, as well. The elements of Fiehler could be associated in any varying manner to create any varying design including

Art Unit: 3673

connections affording relative motion which may be a direct result of temperature, pressure, load,  
etc.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner  
should be directed to M. Safavi whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



MICHAEL SAFAVI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
ART UNIT 364

M. Safavi  
June 16, 2003